

2014 Annual Report
New York State Senate Committee on
Racing, Gaming and Wagering



Senator John J. Bonacic, Chairman

**Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., Ranking
Minority Member**

January 7, 2015

Senator Dean Skelos
Temporary President
New York State Senate
CAP 330
Albany, New York 12247

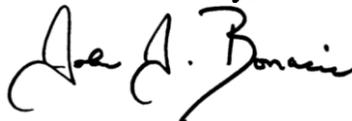
Dear Senator Skelos:

As Chairman of the New York State Senate Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering, I am pleased to present to you the Committee's 2014 Annual Report.

The attached report details the New York State Senate Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee's activities over the past year. I would like to thank the Ranking Minority Member, Senator Joseph Addabbo, for his hard work and attentiveness to this committee. I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their participation and commitment.

I look forward to working with the members of New York State Senate's Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering to ensure that we continue to move in a positive, productive direction in 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Bonacic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOHN J. BONACIC
State Senator

Committee Members

Senator John J. Bonacic, Chairman
Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., Ranking Minority Member

Senator Phil Boyle
Senator David Carlucci
Senator Joseph A. Griffo
Senator George Latimer
Senator Kathleen A. Marchione
Senator Michael F. Nozzolio
Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer
Senator James Sanders, Jr.
Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk

Committee Staff

Andrew Winchell, Committee Director
Robert Gibbon, Majority Counsel
Michael Ventre, Committee Clerk

Racing, Gaming and Wagering Budget Items for State Fiscal Year 2014-2015

The Legislature adopted a budget of \$114.6 million for the Gaming Commission. It also provided the ability for funds from the Commercial Gaming Regulation Account to be made available pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Gaming Commission and the Division of the State Police. Further, it required that the Division of the State Police provide background checks for casino license applications.

One and a half percent (1.5%) of revenues collected by Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) for purse enhancements at thoroughbred tracks were redirected to pay for health insurance for jockeys. The Legislature increased the amounts of VLT host community aid to those municipalities that host VLT facilities and concurred with the Executive proposal to extend the Monticello VLT distribution rates for one year.

The Legislature appropriated \$2.3 million for the Racing Reform Program. The Legislature denied the Executive proposal to increase the racing regulatory fee from 0.0005 percent to 0.0006 percent. The Legislature accepted the Executive proposal to extend current pari-mutuel tax rates for simulcasting out of state races for one year. The Legislature accepted the Executive proposal to extend the vendor capital award program for one year.

Summary of Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee Action on Bills

Total bills referred to the Committee in 2014	48
Total bills reported from Committee in 2014	14
Total number of bills reported by Committee that passed the Senate	9
Total number of bills reported by Committee that became law in 2014	4
Total number of bills reported by Committee that were vetoed in 2014	0

**Bills Reported by the Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee that were
Enacted Into Law in 2014**

Chapter 105 of the laws of 2014 – S.6527 Bonacic/ A.8698 Pretlow

This bill extends, for one year, the authorization for the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association to receive an additional one percent (1%) of purse funds collected from the race meetings at Aqueduct, Saratoga and Belmont racetracks, until August 31, 2015.

Chapter 168 of the laws of 2014 – S.7019 Bonacic/ A.9410 Pretlow

This bill extends, for one year, the provisions of Chapter 473 of the laws of 2010 relating to the operations of the New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, until October 28, 2015. These provisions include: the requirement that payments to the fund be made on a quarterly basis; the authorization that sixty-five percent (65%) of revenue can be allotted to breeder awards; the authorization that six percent (6%) of revenue can be used for promoting the breeding and raising of thoroughbred horses; and the authorization that five percent (5%) of revenue can be used for administrative costs.

Chapter 170 of the laws of 2014 – S.7098 Bonacic/ A.9148 Magee

This bill allow foals to be eligible for the New York Sire Stakes harness racing program, if the foal was conceived from a mare that was bred in the state, and sired by a stallion owned, or leased by a resident of New York for at least one year. Previously, if the stallion was leased by a resident of New York, the term of the lease had to be at least 10 years.

Chapter 258 of the laws of 2014 – S.5330-B Bonacic/ A.7617-A Pretlow

This bill provides New York State harness tracks the option to hold New York-only races to ensure that New York bred harness horses are given an opportunity to compete.

Bills Reported by the Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee that were Vetoed by the Governor in 2014

None.

Nominations Reported by the Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee that were confirmed by the Senate in 2014

Mark Gearan, Member and Chairman of the New York State Gaming Commission

Peter J. Moschetti, Jr., Member of the New York State Gaming Commission

Robert Williams, Executive Director of the New York State Gaming Commission

**Additional Item of Interest to the Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee
in 2014.**

On November 5, 2013 the voters of New York State ratified the proposed constitutional amendment to authorize casino gaming. Also in 2013, the legislature passed enacting legislation – the Upstate New York Gaming Economic Development Act of 2013 (Chapter 174 of the laws of 2013 – S.5883 Bonacic/A.8101 Pretlow). The passage of this legislation authorized the Gaming Commission to create the Gaming Facility Location Board to issue a request for applications for those interested in obtaining a casino license and review the applications.

The Gaming Facility Location Board issued a request for applications on March 31, 2014 and received sixteen (16) responsive applications throughout the three (3) eligible regions. The Gaming Facility Location Board was empowered to select up to four (4) applicants to be recommended to the Gaming Commission to receive casino licenses. On December 17, 2014 the Gaming Facility Location Board released their recommendation of three (3) applications: Montreign Resort Casino in the Town of Thompson, Sullivan County; Rivers Casino & Resort at Mohawk Harbor in the City of Schenectady, Schenectady County; and Lago Resort & Casino in the Town of Tyre, Seneca County.

As of the end of 2014, the recommended applicants were under review by the Gaming Commission for awarding of casino licenses pending the completion of the application suitability review and required environmental review.